

May 13, 2019

Here are two reflections on two areas of my life that have been on my mind lately:

1) The effectiveness of PBL projects and 2) God's love demonstrated through his people.

1) Every teacher longs for student engagement in their learning. Most teachers covet this because it means less behaviour issues which equals an easier time teaching. However, there are more reasons: teachers want their students to hit the curriculum targets for the year and gain important skills for later in life. But they also want their students to have fun at school and go home satisfied at the end of each day.

In my recent experience as a teacher, I've experimented with a concept that you may be familiar with: Project Based Learning (PBL). The Buck Institute for Education describes it as "Students working on a project over an extended period of time... a project that engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. They demonstrate their knowledge and skills by developing a public product or presentation for a real audience."

In my experience, PBL units have allowed my students to hit the curriculum requirements and be engaged in their learning, especially when it's a hands-on project. In my last PBL, students were learning about medieval history in social studies. They were required to research a medieval person/occupation (i.e. blacksmith or serf) and the structure associated with that person (i.e. blacksmith workshop and serf's cottage). Students eventually built a miniature structure as well. Having students show this project off to parents and friends at our 1st Annual Celebration of Learning night was a highlight for myself and many of my students this year. Many teachers at WCS are now using PBL units as part of their teaching methodology and I'm excited to see more in the future!

2) As many of you know my wife Abby and I recently had another boy (Leo) and at 2 months he was diagnosed with a tricky heart condition called Permanent Junctional Reciprocating Tachycardia (PJRT). For 18 days, Leo was in the critical care unit of Toronto's Sick Kids hospital. It was of course a scary time for Abby and I and very busy with a 2 year old (Jude) to take care of as well. In the stressful weeks of the ordeal, Abby and I were constantly reminded of God's love and faithfulness through the many encouraging words, prayers, visits, phone calls, emails, meals and gifts from our friends, family, school and church community. If you did any of the above, thank you so much! 1 Peter 4:8-11 says: *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

A. Hiemstra



Monday	- Maylina W., Gr.3B - Mr. G. Hiemstra, Gr.3 Teacher
Tuesday	- Linnaya D., JK2
Wednesday	- Hailey V., Gr.6
Friday	- Adelyn H., Gr.2A
Sunday	- Mrs. Sikma, French Teacher
Monday	- Savannah F., SK2

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

**Prayer Corner:** Please continue to pray for our children, for our community and its needs, and for health and well-being. This week our prayers are for our families. We thank God for all of you, and that he will strengthen and continue to provide for you through the people and agencies in your life. Please pray for the Wee Creations community as they are dealing with the recent death of one of their preschoolers and serious health issues for one of their teachers.

**Parent Survey:** Last week you received a link to an on-line WCS Parent Survey. This is a survey that we conduct regularly at WCS. We want to hear from you, our parents. We appreciate your feedback in areas such as curriculum, society matters, school atmosphere, and communication. Please complete the survey.

**Monthly Mingle:** Please join us for our monthly mingle on Thursday starting at 9 am in the gymnasium. Bring your younger children and we will have some entertainment for them as well. Coffee, juice and goodies will be provided.

**PA Day & Victoria Day, Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Please note that there are no classes this Friday and that Monday is Victoria Day. Enjoy your spring long weekend.

**Victoria Day Parade:** Thank you to everyone who has responded that they will be joining us for the Victoria Day Parade. If your family would still like to come we would love to have you join us. We will be meeting at our float around the Woodstock Fairgrounds racetrack at 9:45 am. Make sure to wear your purple shirt, we have extras if you need one. We are still in need of a truck to pull our float down the parade. If you have a truck that you are willing to drive for us please contact Joleen at [j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca](mailto:j.mulder@woodstockchristian.ca).

**Track and Field Day Volunteers Needed:** Track and Field day on Wed., May 22, is quickly approaching! We need all staff members along with a number of volunteers to help run this event. Due to our difficulty in finding enough high school helpers this year, we need to recruit parent and/or grandparent volunteers. Check your email later this week for a copy of the track and field day schedule along with a link to sign up to help with timing the races.

**Kindergarten for 2019-2020:** One of the changes for next year will be to our kindergarten schedule as a result of staffing and Human Resources matters. Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The SONBeams program will be available on Mondays and Thursdays. We will ensure that our special days and chapels/assemblies are scheduled for days when all our kindergarten students are at school.

**Update your Police Check:** A reminder to parents that Woodstock Christian School requires staff, volunteers, and parents who drive and/or accompany field trips and sports teams to file current police checks with the school office. If you (or a grandparent) wish to accompany your child on class trips that are happening this spring, a current police check must be submitted. See our office staff for a letter to take to your local police services. If you have submitted one previously, check in with Mrs. Mulder to find out if it is still valid.

**Summer & WCS Dress Code:** Now that the warm weather is with us (or soon will be ... :), a reminder to check the Family Handbook for dress code in regards to shirts, length of shorts, and choice footwear.

**Measures of Academic Progress (MAP):** The spring session of MAP testing began May 6<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in learning more about MAP, speak to your child's teacher or check out the link to their website.  
<https://www.nwea.org/assessments/map/>

**Lost & Found:** Be sure to check out the Lost and Found area. There are some cold weather items as well as gym wear, and jackets. Items will be brought to a thrift store next week.

**Learning Support - Mrs. Bulthuis:** Hope you all had a great Mother's Day weekend. Keep reading with your kids at home! This is not only a great way to spend quality time together, but it also helps your children become better readers. The grade 6 students will be wrapping up their patterns and algebra unit tomorrow with a test. This has been a tough unit, so extra review this evening will help them be better prepared.

Tuesday - Gr. 6 math test (JUMP p. 70-97)

Wednesday - Return book bags (Gr. 1-3)

**J.K.1 - Mrs. Westerveld:** Welcome to a new week. It was great seeing you all at the Mother's Day Tea. The children's blankets may now be left at home. Our Show and share this week is showing a talent. Please watch for field day form coming home. Please fill out and return ASAP. Have a great week.

Wednesday - Library

Thursday - Show and share a talent

**S.K.1 - Mrs. Poort:** This week for our Service Learning Project we are meeting with Annette Lievaart. She is missionary who works as a Nurse in Tenwek hospital in Kenya. We will be making her cards for her patience.

Wednesday Show are Share green and wear green.

Everyone is welcome to join on the Victoria Day Parade School Float on Monday May 20 @ 9:45.

Monday - Visit from Annette

Wednesday - Library

- Green Day

- Check Sound Books

Thursday - Pizza

Monday - No School

- Victoria Day Parade

**JK2/SK2 - Miss Body:** Welcome to a new week- looks like a wet one again. Please dress students for the weather- rain boot, splash pants etc.

Bible: David

Language: review

Math: SK's- adding stories, JK's- number review

Theme: Transportation

Tuesday - Happy Birthday Linnaya

Wednesday - Library

- scholastic due

Thursday - Pizza Day

**Grade 1 - Mrs. Schuster:** I hope and pray that all you women were spoiled this weekend as we were able to celebrate you. It's HATCH WEEK! We are super excited to meet our little chickens this week! This is also our last week of practice before Track and Field day! Please

continue to ensure that proper footwear is worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays for gym time.

Monday - See VIP Folder

Tuesday - Library

Wednesday - Reading Folders Due

Thursday - Spelling Test

- Monthly Mingle (9:00-10:00)

- Pizza Day

Friday - P.A. Day

Next Mon. - Victoria Day (no school)

- WCS Parade Float

**Grade 2A - Mrs. VanderPloeg:** Welcome to another week!! Check your emails for a look at what is going on in our class this week.

Tuesday - Phys. Ed.

Wednesday - Library

- Show & Share: Peter

Thursday - Spelling Test

- Pizza Lunch

Friday - PA Day

- Happy Birthday to Adelyn!

next Mon. - NO School

**Grade 2B/3B - Mrs. Horinga:** Welcome to a new week. Our spelling words this week will introduce us to prefixes. This week we will focus on the prefix "un." We have really been enjoying our Bible study on Joseph and how up and down his life had been and yet he remained faithful to God through it all.

Monday - Library

- MAP testing

Tuesday - MAP testing

Thursday - Pizza Day

- Spelling test

Mon.(20) - Victoria Day Parade: families are welcome to join us at 9:45 at the Woodstock

Fairgrounds and walk/scooter or ride along on

the float in the Woodstock Victoria Day

Parade - coming wearing purple or if you

don't have any we will provide you with

some.

**Grade 3A - Mr. G. Hiemstra:** We are at the Waterloo Region Museum as we learn about structures and pioneers. Thank you to all those parents who came along with us today! We will continue with map testing this week and next. There will be no spelling test this week.

Wednesday - Bible Test: God's Law

May 20 - Victoria Day Parade (see elsewhere in the Parent Link)

**Grade 4 - Mrs. VanAndel:** Welcome to the 34th week of school grade 4! Lots of learning is in store for this week. Auditions for the play are being held on Tuesday.

- Monday - Devotions: Anna  
- Music: recorders  
- Library
- Tuesday - Devotions: Ciara  
- Auditions
- Wednesday - Devotions: Cody  
- Music: bring recorders
- Thursday - Devotions: Corryn  
- Spelling test  
- Memory work: Proverbs 2:6,7
- Friday - no school
- Next Mon. - Victoria Day: no school
- next Tues. - Devotions: Daniel

**Grade 5 - Mr. A. Hiemstra:** Welcome to another week of school. I look forward to this week as we are starting a Bible PBL unit about the book of Esther, students are excited! This week we are also continuing our MAP testing sessions. Could you also bring in \$19.00 for your child's end-of-year field trip? And 19.00 for yourself if you are one of the chaperons planning on joining in on the activities. Thanks.

- Tuesday - PhysEd: bring gym clothes  
- Music: bring recorder
- Thursday - PhysEd: bring gym clothes  
- Music: bring recorder  
- Story Illustrations due
- Friday - Spelling: Lesson 32 & Test  
- Memory Work: Exodus 15:26

**Grade 6 - Mrs. Hickey:** Welcome to a new week. We are getting ready for Track and Field. Be sure to have gym clothes available every day since we will try to get in extra practices. Proper footwear is a must as well. We are almost ready to make an electricity project. An email will be sent soon about possible supplies needed from home. Keep reading for the Book Report Mobile. Finish reading by end of May.

- Tuesday - Music (instrument)  
- Library
- Wednesday - Phys. Ed. (gym strip and proper outdoor shoes)
- Thursday - Pizza Lunch  
- Music (instrument)  
- Spelling Test: Lesson 28

**Grade 7 - Mrs. Racicot:** Families are invited to participate in riding the WCS Victoria Day Parade float. Please check the Parent Link for specific details of time and location.

- Monday - BMW Heb 13:7
- Tuesday - math quiz #64-71
- Thursday - Science unit test

- spelling test  
- BMW test

**Grade 8 - Mr. Schaafsma:** Welcome to a new week of school. Students will be participating in MAP Testing this week as well as the annual Gauss Math Competition. For more information about Gauss Math check out this website: <https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/contests.html>. Students will also continue to train for Track & Field, the WCS Field day is taking place next week! Thank-you to Mrs. Butler for walking with us to Caressant Care on Friday.

- Monday - Phys. Ed (bring gym clothes)  
- Map Testing
- Tuesday - Ukulele Project  
- Music (bring instruments)  
- Map Testing
- Wednesday - Phys. Ed. (bring gym clothes)  
- Gauss Math Competition  
- Map Testing
- Thursday - Music (bring instruments)  
- Spelling Workbook handed in/Spelling Quiz
- Friday - No School (PA Day)
- Monday - No School (Victoria Day)

#### **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- |      |      |                                                                         |
|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May  | 6-17 | MAP testing- Term 3                                                     |
|      | 15   | Prayer Group 8:30 am                                                    |
|      | 16   | Monthly Mingle 9 a.m.<br>Pizza Day<br>Staff Meeting- Grad Focus 3:45 pm |
|      | 17   | P.A. Day (no classes)                                                   |
|      | 20   | Victoria Day (no classes)<br>WCS Parade Float- Join us!                 |
|      | 21   | Board Meeting                                                           |
|      | 22   | WCS Field Day (rain date May 23)                                        |
|      | 30   | Share the Music Day                                                     |
| June | 3    | Ascension/Pentecost Chapel                                              |
|      | 5    | Staff Meeting<br>Prayer Group 8:30                                      |
|      | 6    | District Field Day                                                      |
|      | 7    | New Student Visit Day                                                   |
|      | 14   | P.A. Day                                                                |
|      | 18   | Tribute Assembly<br>Graduation                                          |
|      | 19   | Prayer Group<br>Board Meeting                                           |
|      | 21   | Report Cards<br>1 p.m. Dismissal                                        |
|      | 22   | WCS Golf Tournament                                                     |